

COMMENTS ON THE PROPOSED SUPPRESSION OF *CORNUFER UNICOLOR*  
TSCHUDI 1838 (AMPHIBIA). Z.N.(S.) 1749  
(see volume 23, pp. 167-168)

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The frog genus *Cornufer* is celebrated in the biogeographical literature. The presence of an endemic species of frogs of this genus on the Fiji Islands and of other endemic species in the Solomons has been cited by many zoogeographers as irrefutable evidence for a land bridge from New Guinea through the Solomons to Fiji. As far as we know, every writer on this subject (most recently Barbour, 1923; Mertens, 1934; Brown and Myers, 1949; Darlington, 1957; Gorham, 1965) has used the name *Cornufer* Tschudi 1838, even though some herpetologists have also used the name *Platymantis* Günther 1858 for some species of this group.

The proposal of Zweifel (*Bull. zool. Nomencl.*, 23 : 167) to replace a name, so celebrated in the biological literature, for purely nomenclatural reasons, is not the best possible solution. Zweifel quite correctly asked the Commission to suppress the species *unicolor* Tschudi 1838 in order to save the validity of the well-known genus *Eleutherodactylus*, but unfortunately he also asked the Commission to suppress the well-known name *Cornufer* Tschudi. Stability of nomenclature would be served far better if the Commission would suppress all previous type designations for the genus *Cornufer* Tschudi, and designate a new type-species for this genus. The most suitable species for this purpose is *Halophila vitiensis* Girard, 1853, *Proc. Acad. nat. Sci., Philadelphia*, 6 : 423, Ovalau, Fiji. This species will remain in *Cornufer*, even if a separate genus *Platymantis* is recognized. Since Zweifel has already asked for suppression of the originally designated type-species of the genus *Cornufer*, there stands nothing in the way to the designation of *vitiensis* as the substitute type-species.

Accordingly we request the International Commission of Zoological Nomenclature to amend the application by Zweifel, as follows:

- Retain 1b (suppression of *unicolor* Tschudi),  
2 (placing of *Eleutherodactylus* on the Official List),  
3, and 5.

But supplement it by these three actions:

- (6) Suppress all previous type designations for the genus *Cornufer* by plenary action and designate the species *vitiensis* Girard 1853, as published by the binomen *Halophila vitiensis*, as the type of the genus *Cornufer* Tschudi,
- (7) place the generic name *Cornufer* Tschudi 1838 on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology, and
- (8) place the specific name *vitiensis* Girard 1853 on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology.

By the Nomenclature Committee of the American Society of Ichthyologists and Herpetologists

The committee unanimously supports this application. Dr. Zweifel has demonstrated a proper case for exercise of the Commission's plenary powers, where application of the Law of Priority would disturb stability by invalidating the well-known name of a genus that comprises more than 200 species. Suppression of the specific name *unicolor* can scarcely be justified independently, but since its reference to the genus *Eleutherodactylus* would invalidate an existing name, perhaps it should be permitted to fall with the generic name with which it was originally published.

